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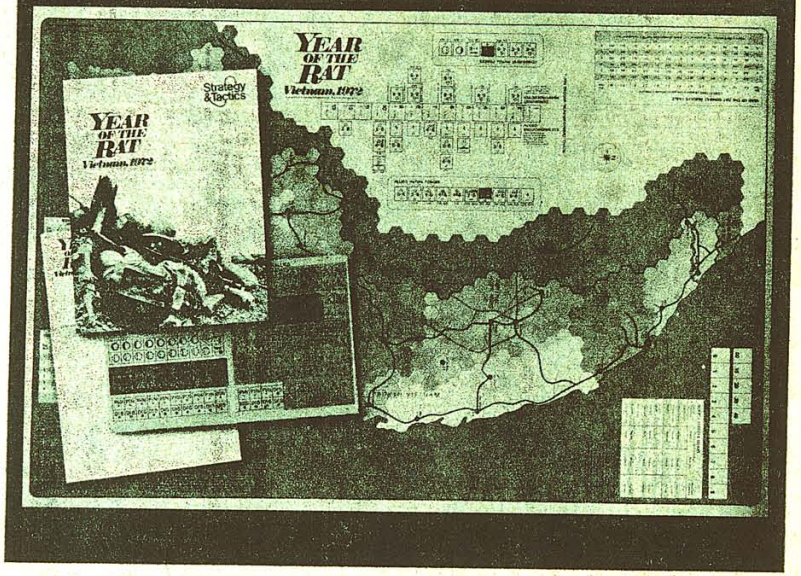

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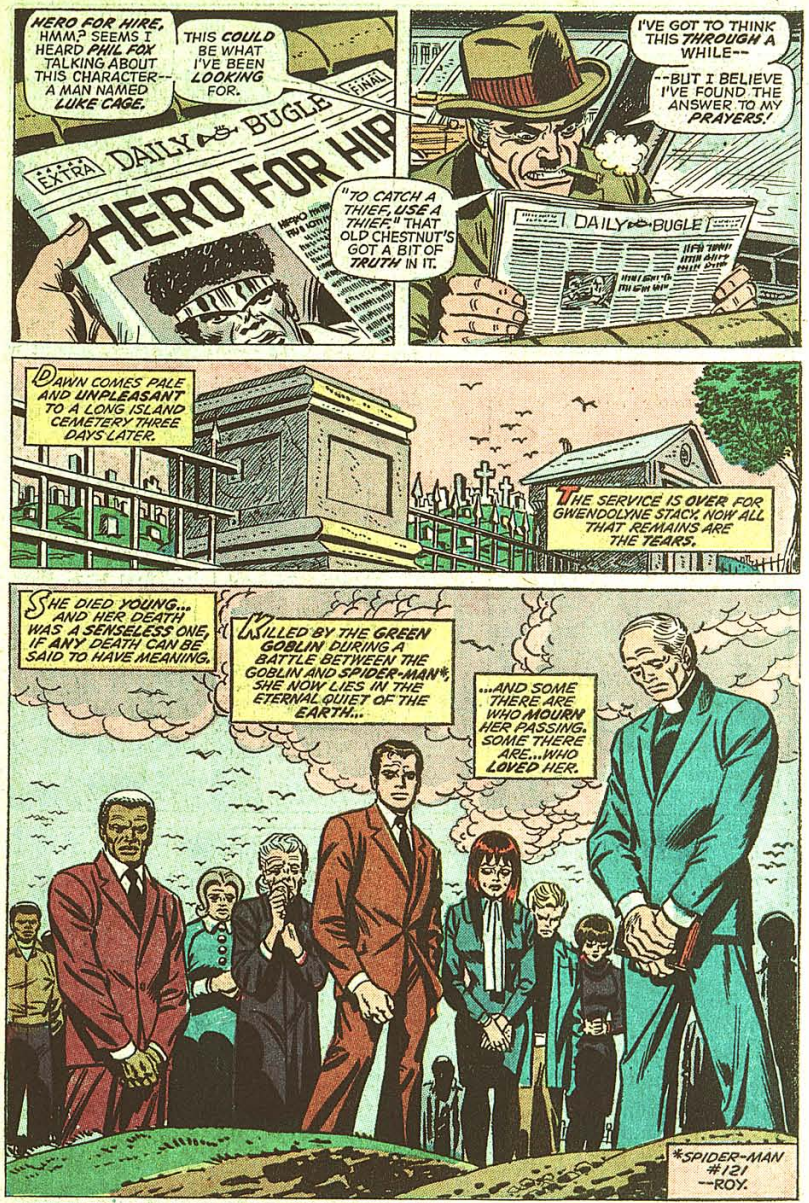

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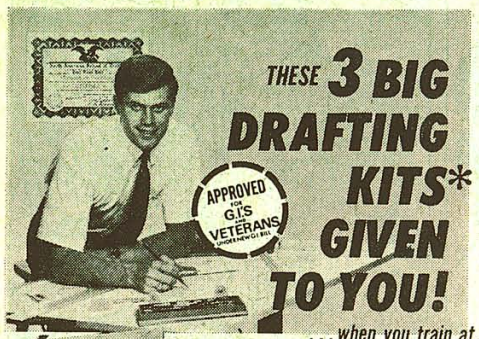

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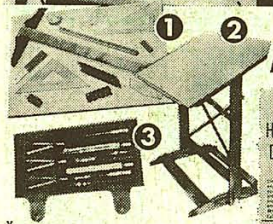

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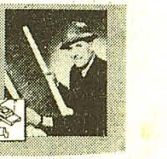
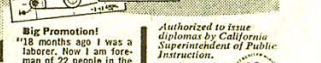


Skyrocketing U.S. mass production requires millions of drawings & thousands of Mechanical Draftsmen all along the way. Drawings must be made of every PART of every product used in the U.S. (as well as of the machines that make these parts) before production can be started.



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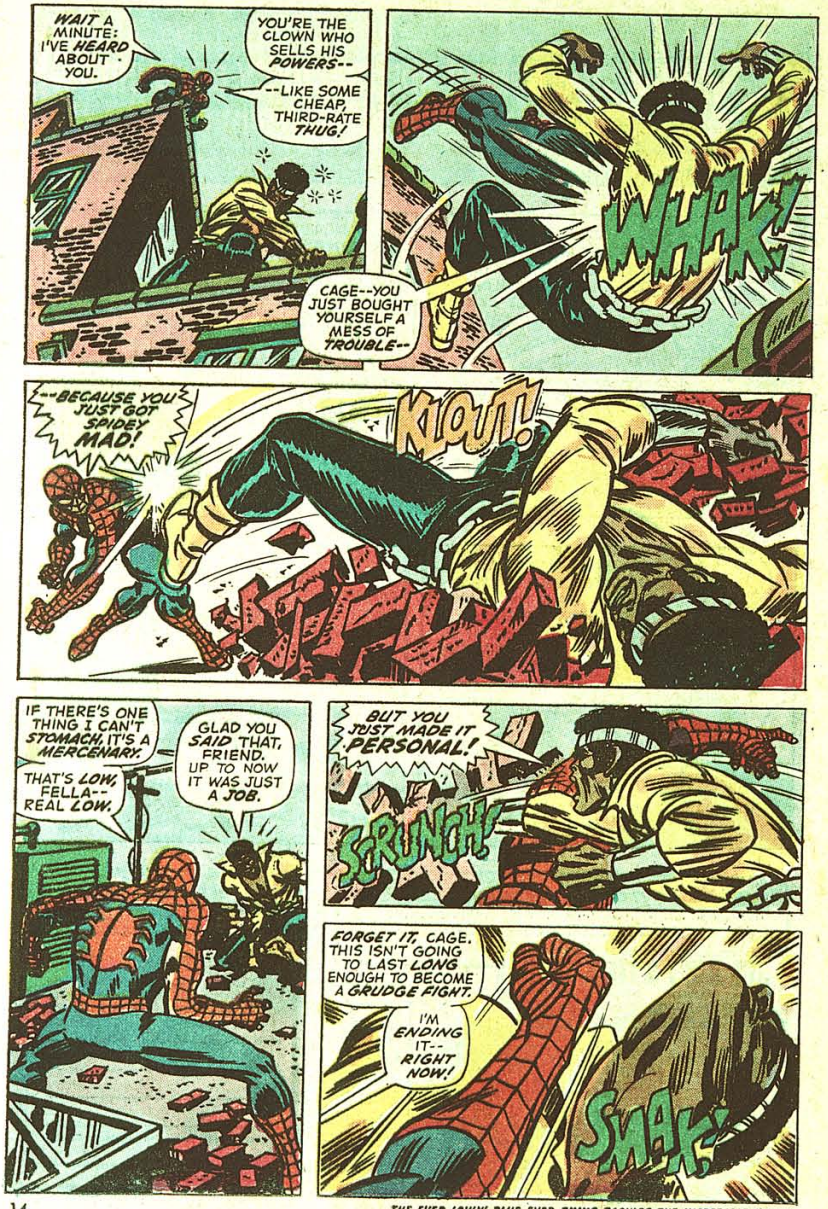

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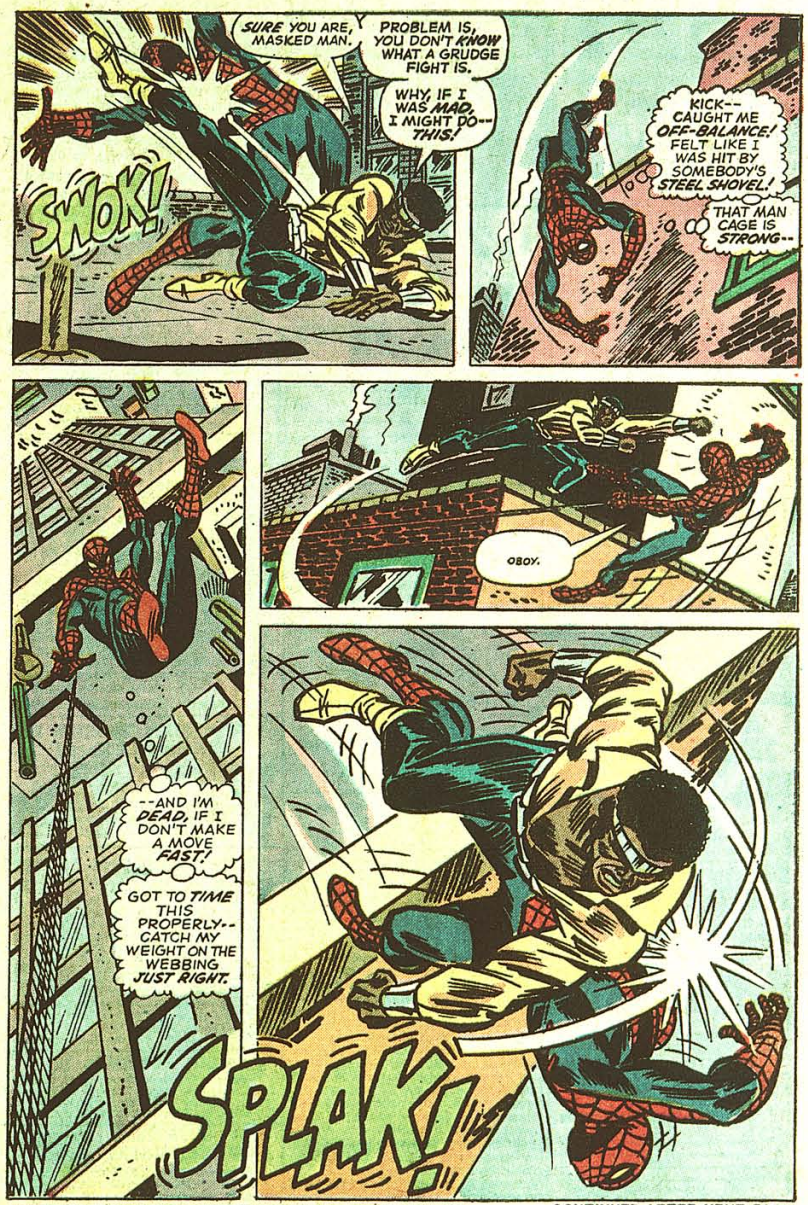

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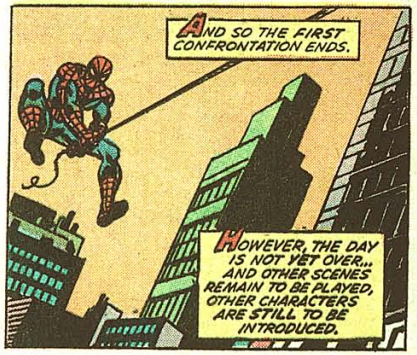

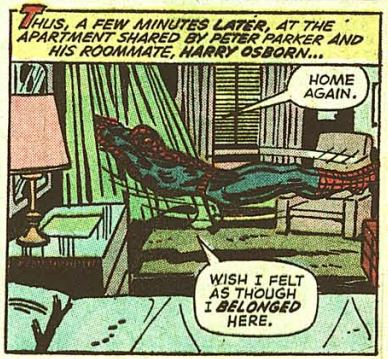

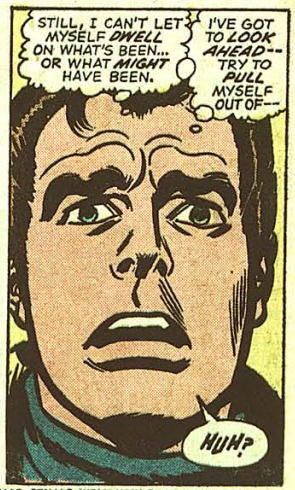

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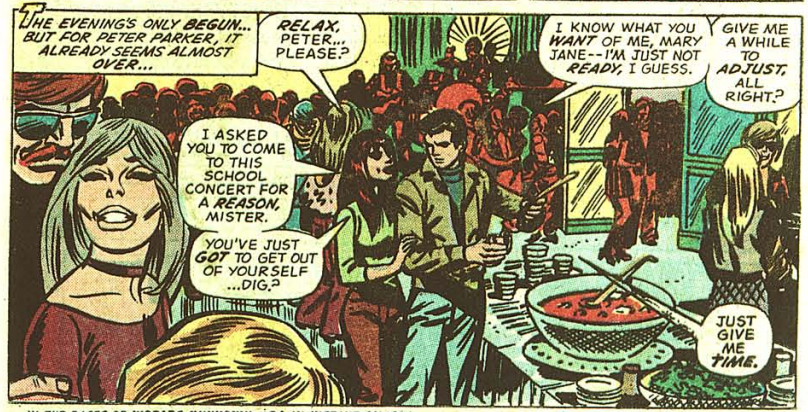

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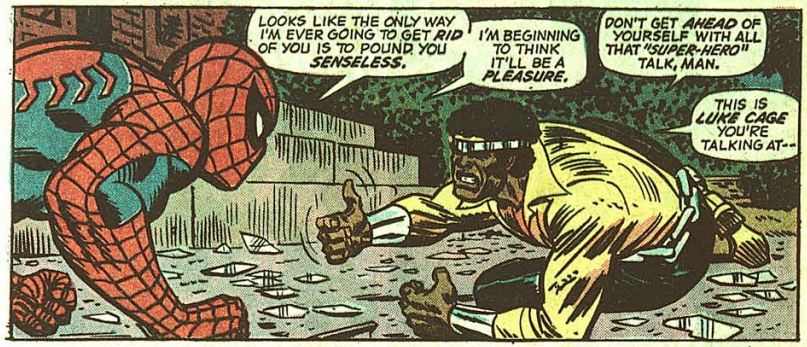

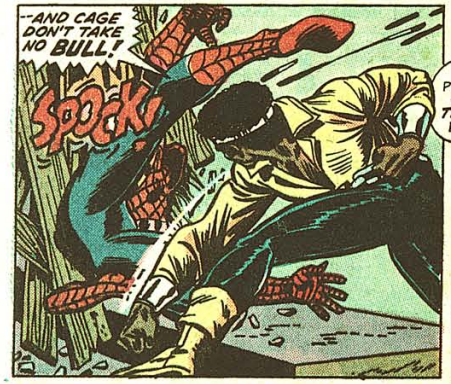

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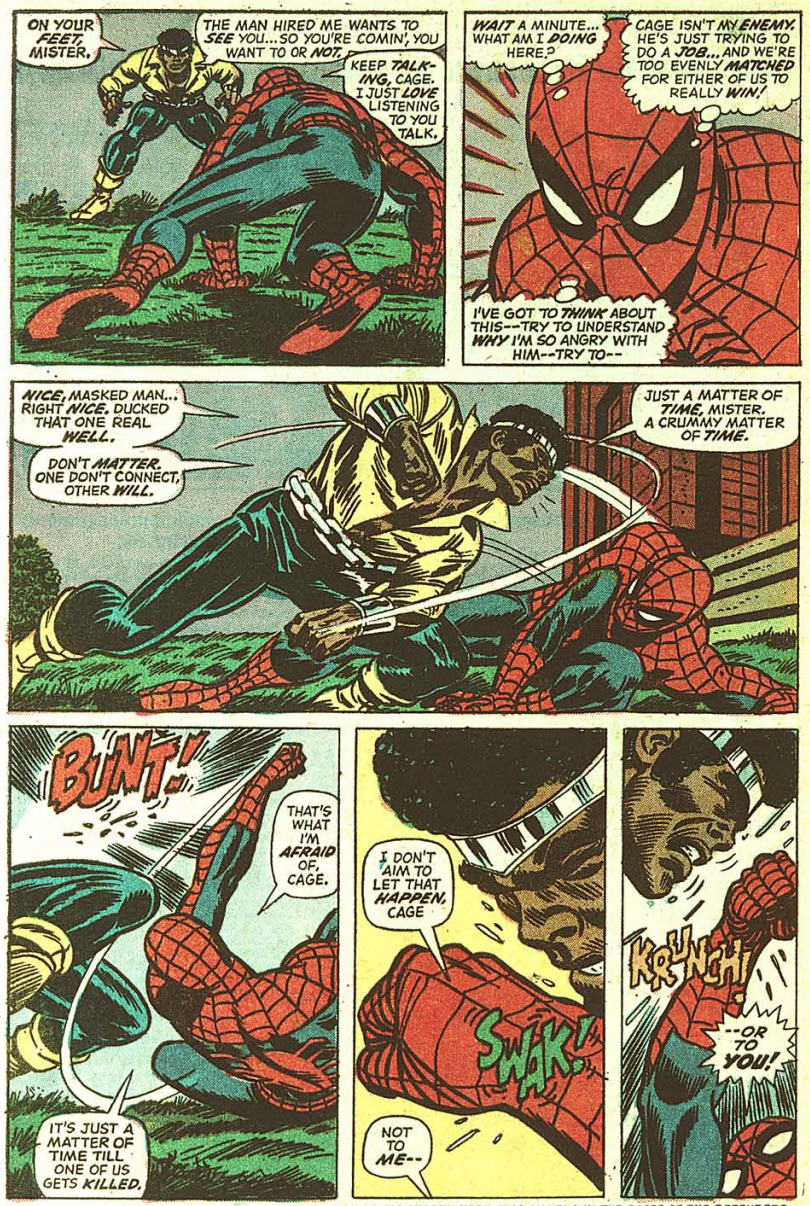

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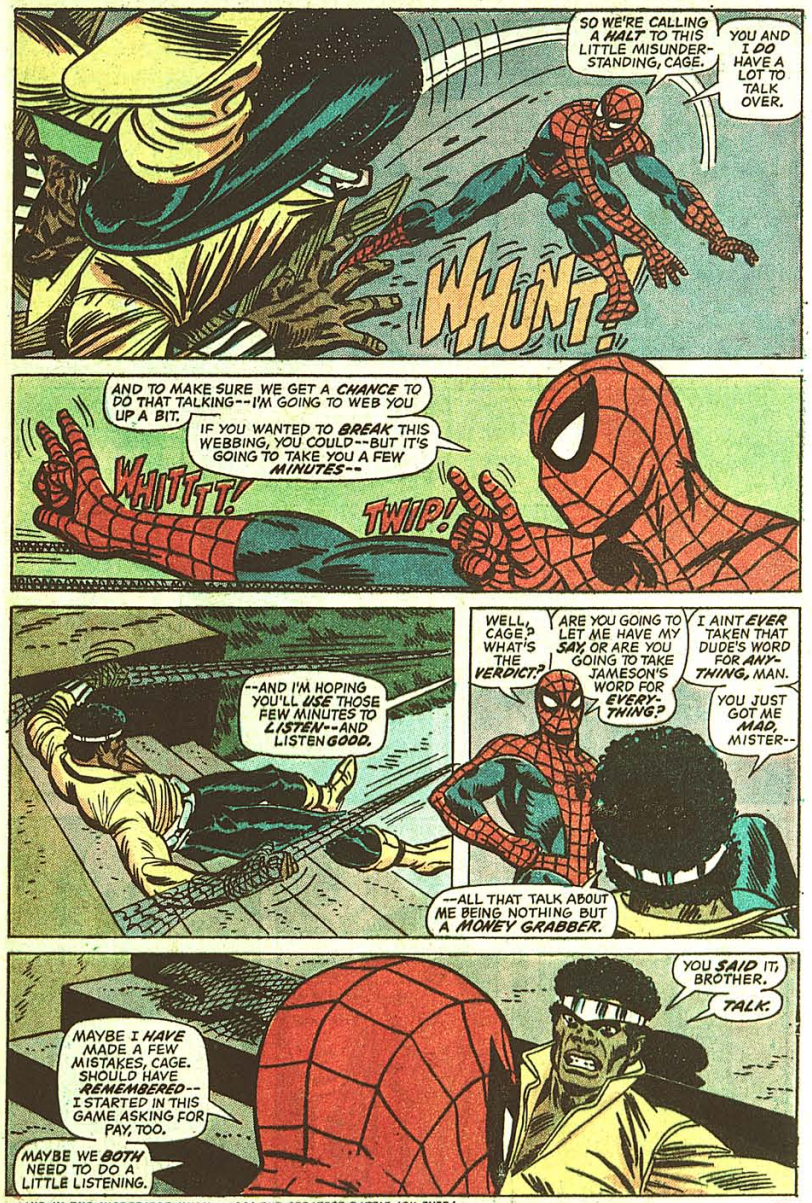

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(Or: Not Only Is *DRACULA* Alive And Well—But He's Got Company!)

ITEM! This is it! The month when we finally spread the word about the *fourth* and *final* one of our creepy quartet of giant-size 75¢ comic-mags! Let's see now: We started out with DRACULA LIVES, which is already a sell-out sensation from coast to coast—we followed that up with the first smash issue of MONSTERS UNLEASHED—and then we hit you with a sinister sleeper called TALES OF THE ZOMBIE (which is still on sale, if you're unbelievably lucky!). And now it's time for—VAMPIRE TALES! That's right, monsterphile. For those of you who think there's naught can be done with the legend of the awesome Undead that wasn't already done by the creator of Count Dracula, macabre Marvel's here to show you that there is indeed something *new* under the sun—or moon, as the case may be! First off, in answer to more requests than we care to remember, we've signed up STEVE "Baby" GERBER and Titanic TOM SUTTON to help us launch a way-out new series about the mysterious man-bat called MORBIUS (and if you don't remember him from SPIDER-MAN—but you *do*; don't you!). What's more, that's just for openers—'cause there's lots *more* grisly goodies behind that breath-taking cover painting, including colorful features and a fear-photo spread that'll knock you right out of your coffin! It's not just an imitation of DRACULA—but a phantasmagorical new mag in its own right. That's VAMPIRE TALES #1—now on sale! Get it fast—before it turns into a bat and flies away!

ITEM! Now, unless you've been sealed in a crypt somewhere for the past few months, we're sure it comes as no surprise that the second issue of MONSTERS UNLEASHED is currently on sale, to boot! But, what *might* just move and shake you is the fact that, beginning this go-round, it spotlights a senses-staggering new serial starring THE MONSTER OF FRANKENSTEIN, picking up where our ever-fabulous color comic leaves off! And, when we clue you in that one of the other tales therein is called "The Roaches"—well, let's just say that this ish of MONSTERS UNLEASHED runs the gamut of gruesome goings-on, from A to *Zombie!*

ITEM! Hey, guess what! Just 'cause we love ya, we've decided to make a heaping handful of our most popular *bi-monthly* titles into *monthlies* for the long hot summer coming up. Yep, that means there'll be a couple of extra issues of some of your favorites (like THE DEFENDERS—and MARVEL PREMIERE, with Dr. Strange) winging your way soon! So pick 'em up—but don't get confused, hear?

MARVEL MINI-ITEMS! Let's all give a hearty "welcome aboard" to Battlin' BOB BROWN, whom we've long respected as one of comicdom's most talented artists—and who's recently signed on to DO THE AVENGERS and WARLOCK for us! • How about ol' Sunny JIM MOONEY, who's been just coasting along doing inking for us for years, and who's now really movin' out as the peerless penciler on many issues of Spidey's adventures in MARVEL TEAM-UP? 'Way to go, Jim-baby—we always knew you could do it, if you could tear yourself away from that antique shop of yours long enough! • And this seems like just the place to sneak in a ref or two to a couple of nifty *new features* that'll be debuting next month in one mag or another! All we can say for now is that one of 'em is called THE MARK OF SATAN—while the other stars a far-out gent called BROTHER VOODOO! Be here next issue—same time, same place—for full details! • Whew! You know, we may have more writers and artists than ever—and we know that sometime a few more boo-boos and bonehead mistakes slip thru our over-worked fingers than we care to admit—but it still fills the whole blamed Bullpen with boundless enthusiasm and just a wee bit of beaming pride every month, when we each get our very own stack of the current crop of Marvel mags! Face it, friends and fellahim—we're *all* comic-fans at heart. And isn't that the way it *should* be?

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THE SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:
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Dear Gerry and John,

Shades of Steve Ditko! SPIDER-MAN #119, I mean. This issue was so chock full of sub-plots that I thought for a moment, I was back in 1965. It's been many an issue since I've thrilled to such writing as in your latest masterpiece.

Sub-plot #1: What will happen to Aunt May? Perhaps this can't rightly be termed a sub-plot, as it has after all been featured rather as a "subsidiary main plot" over the past several issues. However, there are still many undreamt of possibilities for this sequence of events, once Doc Ock finishes his stint in jail (again).

Sub-Plot #2: The telegram from Rimbaud. Perhaps he is a character from Aunt May's past. Or perhaps he has dealings with Octavius, and is somehow trying to get at her thru this telegram. Who knows?

Sub-Plot #3: Norman Osborn. Is he again returning to his former alias as a master villain? Let us hope not. Anyway, it is interesting to speculate as to what will develop from this little incident.

Sub-Plot #4: The shady character in gold overcoat, black hat, and cigarette who first appears on panel 8 of page 6, and who keeps popping up almost on every page thereafter, is obviously shadowing Peter. Either Johnny has little imagination when it comes to drawing common passers-by, or something will definitely develop from this in future issues.

The battle between Spidey and Greenskin was excellently handled. Obviously, the only way he's going to beat the Hulk is to lead him away from the dam, and then take off. I mean, if Spider-Man thinks he's going to hurt the Hulk in a battle, he may as well go off and pound a brick wall for a while. At least, he'll sustain less injury that way.

The artwork was superb. I hope you, John, continue on the strip for sometime, as your work is unequaled for SPIDER-MAN. The coloring was sensational, also. All in all, this issue was possibly the best since #111.

Incidentally, I take it that Pete is currently on Christmas vacation from college?

RFO Michael Ambrose, 9913 Minuteman St.
El Paso, Texas 79924

Not *currently*, Mike, but he was while the Spidey/Hulk battle was taking place!

And by the way, while thanking you for your cogent comments, we just can't resist mentioning that the praise for SPIDER-MAN #119 was nearly *unanimous*! Apparently, the kind of fast-paced, action-packed thriller which Gerry and John presented was precisely what Marveldom was waiting for. We're pleased and proud, folks. And we mean that.

Dear Stan,

It's nice to see the Bullpen holding a special no-prize give-away for us unfortunates who haven't yet acquired one. On the last page of SPIDER-MAN #119, Spidey can't really be plunging to his doom in "sub-zero" water. Doom, maybe, but sub-zero water, no! I'm sure other readers have already scolded you, but I'd like to emphasize that sub-zero water does not exist, except under extraordinary conditions not found in lakes or streams. Water freezes at + 32° Fahrenheit (0° on the Centigrade scale), so at this temperature it undergoes a strange but highly predictable transformation into that hard, brittle, crystalline material commonly known as ice. On any cold winter day the water in a lake or river is much warmer than the air above it, so I have a hunch that Spidey will survive the chill. Please send my (well-insulated) no-prize by air mail; in the meantime I will continue to Make Mine Marvel.

Max G. Rodel, 1601 Adams Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

As they say in the funny books: ulp.

For once, Max, we can't even come up with our usual dumb joke to get us out of a tight spot. Fact is, we goofed—and your cryogenic no-prize is on its way to you at this very moment—to be delivered *personally* by Bobby Drake and Frosty the Snowman.

And as for you, Gerard F. Conway, boy genius and science fiction prodigy—we're sentencing you to three weeks at hard labor in a popsicle factory! (And with our luck, the next sub-zero water Spidey dives into will be cherry-flavored!)

Dear Gang,

I feel it is time that Peter's private life went through another phase. In the past, Peter has gone from total sissy to a more confident but still scorned person to a hip motorcycle rider to his position now as a seemingly satisfied mature individual. And yet, because he is Spider-Man, Peter still has many problems. I don't think he can remain in his present state forever. Instead, he needs to change his lifestyle once again. Not permanently, just for a few months. It may lead to another self-realization or another "retirement." The previous two times he quit as Spider-Man he was dissatisfied. The first time (ish #18), he wanted badly to be Spider-Man but couldn't because of his Aunt. The second time (ish #50), he saw no use being Spider-Man because he felt satisfied with life. Since then there has been little change in his personality and this is most unusual. I think Peter should be introduced to a new set of friends and more characterization should be given to his older pals. He should discover a new way of life, possibly growing long hair and a beard for a few issues. Then he can search his soul once again and see where he's at. This is what the comic needs. I don't think Peter is sure yet why he is Spider-Man and until he is, it is realistic for his lifestyle to go through many phases.

Jim D. Lillieforo, 13914 Marianna Dr.
Rockville, Md. 20863

Even *after* we learn why we are what we are, Jim, we've *still* only begun the process of self-discovery and self-realization. And for a guy like Pete, the task is even more complicated. Basically, he has to figure out *two* people—Parker and Spidey—or, at least, two equally developed facets of a single individual.

Thus, as you surmise, a good many changes—and some surprising twists of fate's long road—await our web-headed wonder. If Betty Brant was Phase I . . . and Gwen was Phase II . . . then Phase III has begun . . . and we promise, no devaluation of excitement.

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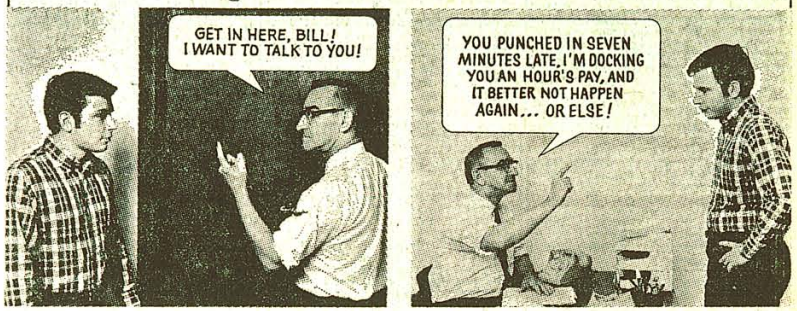

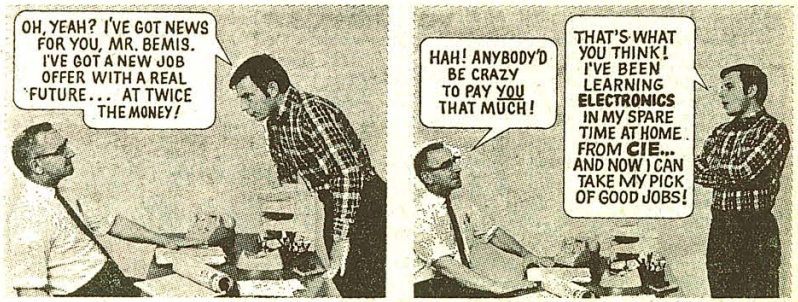

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